

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 616 without my signature.

I share the Legislature's concern over the cost of providing health care to inmates. However, since the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's health care program is now under federal receivership, it is possible that the process of the receiver will supercede all state laws in the area of providing health care to inmates. It is therefore meaningless to codify the expectations and restrictions for a program that will be shaped by the federal courts.

I urge the Legislature to send to me the provisions that do not relate to healthcare within the prison facilities but instead deal with paroled veterans. Trying to find ways to connect paroled veterans with the benefits afforded to them from their military service is a very worthy goal and falls outside of the healthcare issues under federal order.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger